

Polk County

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Community Health Needs Assessment Snapshot

Promote Healthy Behaviors

Problems/Needs:

- Empower more people to take responsibility for maintaining their health. Ensure access to affordable, healthy food for everyone.
- Provide youth with more ways to be physically active every day in school so they learn to become active adults.
- More employers promote worksite wellness for employees.
- More areas like Gray's Lake.
- More bike paths, trails and lanes.
- Fewer people smoke.
- Promote and Support the incorporation of social, emotional and behavioral health practices into primary care settings.
- Enhance existing family support and parent education programs and implement evidence-based home visitation programs that support the healthy development of children ages 0-8.
- Expand integration of developmental screenings across a range of settings for children ages 0-8.

Prevent Injuries

Problems/Needs:

- Stricter helmet laws.
- More safe places for kids to play outside.
- More safety fairs.
- Everyone wears helmets on bikes and skates.

Protect Against Environmental Hazards

Problems/Needs:

- Advocate for affordable, quality and safe housing.
- Clean Air
- Clean Water
- More recycling

Prevent Epidemics and the Spread of Disease

Problems/Needs:

- Lower prevalence of disease
- More immunizations
- Devote additional resources to prevention and wellness.
- Decrease in diseases caused by the environment people live in.
- Increase free and affordable health screenings

Prepare for, Respond to, and Recover from Public Health Emergencies

Problems/Needs:

- Current epidemiological case investigation protocol.
- Rapid response of personnel in emergencies/disasters
- Crisis and emergency communication training

Strengthen the Public Health Infrastructure

Problems/Needs:

- Make sure that all people living in Polk County have health insurance coverage.
- Expand health coverage and services for families who cannot afford private insurance but don't qualify for public programs.
- Ensure equal access to health care for all. Encourage more medical providers to focus on prevention, education and wellness.
- Update the community health profile.
- Access current technology to manage, display, analyze and communicate population health data.
- Review community partnerships and strategic alliances.
- Identify personal health services needs of populations.
- Recruit and retain new and diverse leaders.
- Increase the availability of accessible, affordable public transportation.
- Current system form children's early care and mental health is complicated, fragmented and not coordinated.
- Better linkages between mental health and public health systems.

Community Health Improvement Plan

Goal	Strategies	Who is responsible?	When? (Timeline)
Ensure access to affordable, healthy food for everyone.	Broaden DMARCC food mapping project	To be determined at the 02/18/11 community meeting	To be determined at the 02/18/11 community meeting
	Create mobile food pantry		
	Develop incentives for people of limited income to buy healthy foods		
	Develop for-profit businesses to distribute healthy foods		
	Allow sign up for SNAP at food pantry sites, WIC, Head Start, Broadlawns, Primary Health Care, etc.		
	Create a 2-1-1 for food		
	Develop a social marketing campaign		
	Establish broad-based community partnership		
	Implement policies that encourage covenants that allow for food production in new developments		
	Develop a tool to facilitate regular communication among the food sectors		

Goal	Strategies	Who is responsible?	When? (Timeline)
Devote additional resources to prevention and wellness.	Strategies will be developed by following these steps:	See #5 under strategies	See #5 under strategies
	1. Convene a group of peer-identified subject matter experts		
	2. Facilitate a discussion through which the experts:		
	a. identify what is going on to address this priority		
	b. analyze why the current efforts have not be sufficient to produce the desired change		
	c. propose innovative strategies		
	3. Benchmarks to measure progress will be determined		
	4. The proposed "action agenda" will be presented to the community for adoption.		
	5. Following adoption an implementation plan and timeline will be developed		

Goal	Strategies	Who is responsible?	When? (Timeline)
Provide youth with more ways to be physically active every day in school so they can learn to become active adults.	Strategies will be developed by following these steps:	See #5 under strategies	See #5 under strategies
	1. Convene a group of peer-identified subject matter experts		
	2. Facilitate a discussion through which the experts:		
	a. identify what is going on to address this priority		
	b. analyze why the current efforts have not be sufficient to produce the desired change		
	c. propose innovative strategies		
	3. Benchmarks to measure progress will be determined		
	4. The proposed "action agenda" will be presented to the community for adoption.		
	5. Following adoption an implementation plan and timeline will be developed		

Goal	Strategies	Who is responsible?	When? (Timeline)
Increase the availability of accessible, affordable public transportation	Strategies will be developed by following these steps:	See #5 under strategies	See #5 under strategies
	1. Convene a group of peer-identified subject matter experts		
	2. Facilitate a discussion through which the experts:		
	a. identify what is going on to address this priority		
	b. analyze why the current efforts have not be sufficient to produce the desired change		
	c. propose innovative strategies		
	3. Benchmarks to measure progress will be determined		
	4. The proposed "action agenda" will be presented to the community for adoption.		
	5. Following adoption an implementation plan and timeline will be developed		

Goal	Strategies	Who is responsible?	When? (Timeline)
Make sure that all people living in Polk County have health care insurance coverage	Strategies will be developed by following these steps:	See #5 under strategies	See #5 under strategies
	1. Convene a group of peer-identified subject matter experts		
	2. Facilitate a discussion through which the experts:		
	a. identify what is going on to address this priority		
	b. analyze why the current efforts have not be sufficient to produce the desired change		
	c. propose innovative strategies		
	3. Benchmarks to measure progress will be determined		
	4. The proposed "action agenda" will be presented to the community for adoption.		
	5. Following adoption an implementation plan and timeline will be developed		

Goal	Strategies	Who is responsible?	When? (Timeline)
Expand health coverage and services for families who cannot afford private insurance but do not qualify for public programs.	Strategies will be developed by following these steps:	See #5 under strategies	See #5 under strategies
	1. Convene a group of peer-identified subject matter experts		
	2. Facilitate a discussion through which the experts:		
	a. identify what is going on to address this priority		
	b. analyze why the current efforts have not be sufficient to produce the desired change		
	c. propose innovative strategies		
	3. Benchmarks to measure progress will be determined		
	4. The proposed "action agenda" will be presented to the community for adoption.		
	5. Following adoption an implementation plan and timeline will be developed		

Goal	Strategies	Who is responsible?	When? (Timeline)
Ensure equal access to health care for all.	Strategies will be developed by following these steps:	See #5 under strategies	See #5 under strategies
	1. Convene a group of peer-identified subject matter experts		
	2. Facilitate a discussion through which the experts:		
	a. identify what is going on to address this priority		
	b. analyze why the current efforts have not be sufficient to produce the desired change		
	c. propose innovative strategies		
	3. Benchmarks to measure progress will be determined		
	4. The proposed "action agenda" will be presented to the community for adoption.		
	5. Following adoption an implementation plan and timeline will be developed		

Goal	Strategies	Who is responsible?	When? (Timeline)
Encourage more medical providers to focus on prevention, education, and wellness.	Strategies will be developed by following these steps:	See #5 under strategies	See #5 under strategies
	1. Convene a group of peer-identified subject matter experts		
	2. Facilitate a discussion through which the experts:		
	a. identify what is going on to address this priority		
	b. analyze why the current efforts have not be sufficient to produce the desired change		
	c. propose innovative strategies		
	3. Benchmarks to measure progress will be determined		
	4. The proposed "action agenda" will be presented to the community for adoption.		
	5. Following adoption an implementation plan and timeline will be developed		

Goal	Strategies	Who is responsible?	When? (Timeline)
Empower more people to take responsibility for maintaining their health	Strategies will be developed by following these steps:	See #5 under strategies	See #5 under strategies
	1. Convene a group of peer-identified subject matter experts		
	2. Facilitate a discussion through which the experts:		
	a. identify what is going on to address this priority		
	b. analyze why the current efforts have not be sufficient to produce the desired change		
	c. propose innovative strategies		
	3. Benchmarks to measure progress will be determined		
	4. The proposed "action agenda" will be presented to the community for adoption.		
	5. Following adoption an implementation plan and timeline will be developed		

Goal	Strategies	Who is responsible?	When? (Timeline)
Advocate for affordable, quality and safe housing.	Strategies will be developed by following these steps:	See #5 under strategies	See #5 under strategies
	1. Convene a group of peer-identified subject matter experts		
	2. Facilitate a discussion through which the experts:		
	a. identify what is going on to address this priority		
	b. analyze why the current efforts have not be sufficient to produce the desired change		
	c. propose innovative strategies		
	3. Benchmarks to measure progress will be determined		
	4. The proposed "action agenda" will be presented to the community for adoption.		
	5. Following adoption an implementation plan and timeline will be developed		

Goal	Strategies	Who is responsible?	When? (Timeline)
Develop a community health profile	Contract with the Child and Family Policy Center to update the 2010 Polk County Health Chart	Polk County Health Department and Child and Family Policy Center	2012

Goal	Strategies	Who is responsible?	When? (Timeline)
Access current technology to manage, display, analyze and communicate population health data	1. Post the information from the Community Health Profile on the Polk County web page	Polk County Health Department	By December 2011

Goal	Strategies	Who is responsible?	When? (Timeline)
Review community partnerships and strategic alliances	The group of experts convened for the asset identification and analysis of each Healthy Polk 2020 priority (described above) will review the key partnerships and alliances for their priority	Healthy Polk 2020 priority experts	To be determined by each priority's leadership

Goal	Strategies	Who is responsible?	When? (Timeline)
Identify personal health services needs of populations	1. Convene a work group of safety-net providers	Polk County Health Department	By January 2012
	2. Develop a survey/assessment tool/questionnaire		
	3. Develop and implement an outreach strategy to collect information		
	4. Analyze and share the information		

Goal	Strategies	Who is responsible?	When? (Timeline)
Recruit and retain new and diverse leaders.	Convene a Healthy Polk Leadership Summit each year	Polk County Health Department and Healthy Polk leadership	Winter each year

Goal	Strategies	Who is responsible?	When? (Timeline)
Expand integration of developmental screening across a range of settings for children ages 0-8.	1. Develop a best practice model (screening, referrals, communication, training) from developmental screenings	Visiting, Nurse Services of Iowa, Local Project LAUNCH Council members, Family Support Providers, School Readiness Partnership, Child Care Resource & Referral, Polk County Health Department, Early Learning Providers	Now through September 2011
	2. Partner with early care providers (in home and center childcares, four year old preschool, etc.)		
	3. Provide training and technical assistance to early care providers		

Goal	Strategies	Who is responsible?	When? (Timeline)
Promote and support the incorporation of social, emotional, and behavioral health practices into Pediatric primary care settings	1. Continue coordination with 1st Five to increase the number of primary care practices utilizing developmental screenings during well child exams	Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa, Polk County Health Department, Iowa Department of Public Health 1st Five Initiative, Iowa and local chapters of American Academy of Pediatrics and Family Practice, Medical Homes Advisory Council, local family practice physicians and pediatricians.	January to September 2011
	2. Build the capacity of staff within medical providers offices		
	3. Incorporate concept of "medical homes" into training and technical assistance provided to medical provider offices		

Goal	Strategies	Who is responsible?	When? (Timeline)
Enhance existing family support and parent education programs and implement evidence-based home visitation programs that support the healthy development of children ages 0-8.	1. Implement the Nurse Family Partnership evidence-based home visitation program.	Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa, Polk County Health Department, Local Project LAUNCH Council, Iowa Department of Public Health, parents/caregivers, early learning projects, local schools	January 2011-September 2011
	2. Promote the use of developmental screenings for children ages 0-8 years by program staff		
	3. Promote the use of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support philosophy in existing programs.		
	4. Provide training and coaching to program staff and parents/families.		

Goal	Strategies	Who is responsible?	When? (Timeline)
Build the local infrastructure for a comprehensive early childhood system of care to promote positive development for Polk County children ages 0-8 and their families	1. Engage community leaders and programs in system on a local Council	Polk County Health Department, Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa, local and state Project LAUNCH Councils, parents/caregivers, Iowa Department of Public Health, Early Childhood Iowa Diversity Taskforce members	January 2011-September 2011
	2. Continue the community planning process that supports a shared vision for Polk County's early childhood (0-8) wellness system		
	3. Use the Environmental Scan for children's mental health to define services provided and facilitate service coordination		